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Confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 63/45, the General Assembly reaffirmed the ways and means regarding confidence- and security-building measures set out in the report of the Disarmament Commission on its 1993 session, and it called upon Member States to pursue those ways and means through sustained consultations and dialogue, while at the same time avoiding actions that may hinder or impair such a dialogue. Furthermore, the General Assembly urged States to comply strictly with all bilateral, regional and international agreements, including arms control and disarmament agreements to which they are a party. The Assembly also emphasized that the objective of confidence-building measures should be to help strengthen international peace and security and be consistent with the principle of undiminished security at the lowest level of armaments, and encouraged the promotion of bilateral and regional confidence-building measures, with the consent and participation of the parties concerned, to avoid conflict and prevent the unintended and accidental outbreak of hostilities. It requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session containing the views of Member States on confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context. The present report is submitted pursuant to that request.

2. A note verbale was sent on 23 February 2009 to all Member States requesting their views. To date, replies from the Governments of Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, El Salvador, Greece, Lebanon, Mexico, Panama, Poland, Spain and Ukraine have been received and are reproduced in section II below. Additional replies will be issued as addenda to the present report.

II. Replies received from Member States

Bolivia

[Original: Spanish]
[8 June 2009]

1. With reference to covering note No. 404393 and the request from Ambassador Hugo Alfredo Fernández Araoz, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, I wish to draw your attention to the analysis of confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context set out below:

I. Background

A. Transmission of facsimile CITE/MBNU/102/09 from Ambassador Pablo Solon, Alternate Permanent Representative and Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Bolivia to the United Nations;

B. General Assembly resolution 63/45 of 2 December 2008.

II. Analysis

2. Confidence can be promoted by policies that embody respect for international law and the obligations flowing from treaties, respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, non-intervention in their internal affairs, friendly relations among States, goodwill, harmonization and cooperation. On the other

hand, there are policies which erode or inhibit the development of confidence, such as those characterized by lack of respect for international law, arms stockpiling or aggression.

3. Confidence is boosted by the consistent application of the aforementioned policies through concrete actions and conduct. Measures to promote confidence bring to life and give tangible expression to such policies, especially at the military and security level, but their nature is different.

4. It is essential to bear in mind that confidence, security and disarmament involve processes, as do mistrust, insecurity and arms build-up. The United Nations recognized that fact when it indicated in its study on confidence-building measures (A/36/474) that: "Confidence-building measures cannot be built by a single implementation of a specific confidence-building measure, let alone by a declaration of good intentions. Confidence can only be grown by historic experience." (Ibid., para. 115) "With a view to achieving these objectives, confidence-building measures should translate universally recognized principles of international law (Ibid., para. 161).

Governments

5. In instituting confidence-building measures, Governments should:

- Promote regional dialogue with a view to revitalizing and strengthening institutions, taking into account the new political, economic, social and strategic-military situation, and to that end should seek to foster even more a climate of confidence and security among States;
- Put into practice, in the form in which they were enunciated, the measures and recommendations adopted by the regional conferences on confidence- and security-building measures held under the auspices of the Organization of American States;
- As part of efforts to transform the South American continent into a zone free from anti-personnel mines, bearing in mind the contribution made by the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, encourage actions and support international humanitarian demining, with priority being given to the removal of remnants of war, which threaten the civilian population, and to the rehabilitation of land for productive use;
- Increase cooperation with the United Nations in the maintenance of peace.

Regional level

Southern cone

6. Not so many years ago, the outbreak of a generalized conflict between Argentina and Brazil and between Argentina and Chile was considered imminent. The prospects of conflict were fuelled by nationalistic military regimes and vast stockpiling of weapons. Nowadays, they conduct joint military exercise, and Argentina and Chile have requested the Economic Commission for Latin America to devise a methodology for comparing their military expenditure.

7. In 1998, the Presidents of the Southern Cone Common Market countries, Bolivia and Chile declared the area a zone of peace and free from chemical and bacteriological weapons.

Andean countries

8. A process of economic integration began 30 years ago, and in various cases the Andean Group has taken political action in security matters. The 1973 Declaration of Ayacucho was the beginning of a process of consultation on restriction of weapons and armed forces, while in Galápagos in 1989 and on other occasions, they discussed confidence-building and security-building measures and adopted the relevant resolutions.

9. In the 1991 Declaration of Cartagena, the Andean countries rejected all weapons of mass destruction and, in May 1999, again in Cartagena, the Presidents approved the outlines of a common foreign policy and the political strengthening of the process of and regimes for promoting confidence and security.

Latin America

Bilateral relations

10. The results of these measures have not all been even: some are still in the development stage, others succeeded and several failed; the experience has, however, brought useful and satisfactory results.

11. It is also significant that Latin American countries have acceded to many of the international agreements on disarmament: non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, total prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests, prohibition of chemical weapons and of anti-personnel landmines, and others. Such participation engenders confidence, as does their increasing participation in the United Nations registers of military expenditures and arms transfers.

12. Without prejudice to the above, there remain problems that can affect regional security: not all territorial claims or boundary disputes have been resolved; some armed forces have maintained an autonomy bordering on independence; and while there is no foreseeable possibility of a new round of military coups, there is a need to grasp the true meaning of "civilian control" of the armed forces.

13. The question is complicated by the so-called "new threats", or non-military threats, that form part of a North-South agenda or pit development against underdevelopment. Even though there is no official consensus as to the nature of such threats, the issues raised include illicit drug production and trafficking, subversion, terrorism, organized crime, violations of human rights, problems of the environment, undocumented migration, lack or weakness of democratic institutions, technical backwardness, extreme poverty, the demographic explosion, racism, political or religious fundamentalism, poverty and migration.

14. Consequently, there is a need to consider the possibility offered by such concepts as integral security, democratic security and cooperative or shared security, which could be of interest to the region. Such suggestions could help overcome the concept of security based on power and deterrence, which have contributed to the perception of a threat and to arms races. By bearing in mind the security concerns of others, it is possible to avoid decisions that may be regarded as threatening.

15. The establishment of forms of democratic security that would consolidate peace, cooperation and integration without threatening the sovereignty and independence of any State should be based on such elements as: a State governed by the rule of law and institutional political mechanisms; political decisions on the subject; examination of genuine security needs; overcoming ambiguities in civilian-military relations; appropriate formulation of roles and missions for the armed forces; full respect for human rights; non-use of armed force for selfish political ends; no return to the levels of military expenditure reached in previous years; education for peace; and participation of forces in the maintenance of peace, peacebuilding, humanitarian assistance and stabilization.

16. Article 267 of the new political Constitution of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, in the chapter on the maritime claim, states that Bolivia declares its inalienable and imprescriptible right over the territory that would give it access to the Pacific Ocean and its maritime space; and furthermore that the effective settlement of the maritime dispute by peaceful means and the full exercise of sovereignty over that territory constitute permanent and inalienable objectives of the State of Bolivia.

17. In addition, article 10 declares that Bolivia is a peaceful State that observes full respect for the sovereignty of others, and rejects any kind of aggression as a means of resolving disputes and conflicts between States.

III. Conclusions

18. To conclude, Bolivia reaffirms its commitment to the principle of the peaceful settlement of disputes and strives to comply strictly with all agreements with a view to contributing to the consolidation of peace and international security.

19. The strengthening of confidence is advanced by the new international political climate. The principal features of this development emerge globally in the context of the regional organizations and the United Nations system.

20. The new characteristics of the regional and global arenas, with the transition from the Cold War to détente and its consequences, create conditions conducive to the promotion of confidence among States.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

[Original: English]
[17 April 2009]

Sixth Review Conference on the implementation of the Agreements on Sub-Regional Arms Control Vienna, 3-4 July 2008

Executive Summary

1. The Sixth Review Conference on the implementation of the Agreement on Sub-regional Arms Control (article IV of annex 1-B of the Dayton Peace Accords) was held in Vienna, under the chairmanship of the delegation of Bosnia and

Herzegovina and with the participation of representatives of all Parties to the Agreement — Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Serbia.

2. The Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) for article IV, annex 1-B of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brigadier-General (ret.) Costanzo Periotto, representatives of the Department of Security Cooperation within the OSCE Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and representatives of the Contact Group were also present as participants and observers.

3. Following very fruitful deliberations during the Conference and a thorough evaluation of the implementation of the Agreement during the past period since the V Review Conference, held in Florence on 14 June 2006, the Final document was agreed upon and unanimously adopted on 4 July 2008.

4. The Parties once again confirmed their commitment and readiness to continue the implementation of the Agreement and reaffirmed their determination to constructively maintain the continuity of mutual cooperation, underlining that the results achieved to date in the process of building the mechanisms for regional cooperation in the field of arms control contributed significantly to accelerating the process of accession of the countries of the region into the Partnership for Peace Programme and the European integration processes.

5. The period since the V Review Conference has been characterized by the intensive and successful work of the Sub-Regional Consultative Commission supported by the Permanent Working Group.

6. The Parties expressed their sincere gratitude to the previous and the current Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office for Article IV, Brigadier-General Claudio Sampaolo and Brigadier-General Costanzo Periotto, for their support, assistance and cooperation, which helped the Parties in their successful implementation of the Agreement.

7. In recognition of their vast mutual confidence, openness and transparency and the high level of professionalism achieved in the implementation of the Agreement, the Parties declared their readiness to explore the modalities for further strengthening their ownership over the implementation of the Agreement with a view to gradually achieving full autonomy in its implementation.

El Salvador

[Original: Spanish]
[13 April 2009]

In order to comply with General Assembly resolutions on the control and limitation of documentation prepared by the Secretariat and the guidelines of the Secretary-General for reports drafted and/or compiled by the Secretariat, the reply received from the Government of El Salvador has not been reproduced since it exceeded the acceptable page limit. The full text of the reply is available on the website of the Office for Disarmament Affairs (http://www.un.org/disarmament).

Greece

[Original: English]
[22 May 2009]

Confidence and security-building measures in the field of conventional arms

1. Confidence- and security-building measures (CBM-CSBM) refer to a series of measures that are designed to render greater transparency and larger capability for anticipating military issues.

2. Greece fully participates in the creation of stability, security and cooperation structures among the member nations of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) with the aim to enhance the peripheral security institutions and to eliminate the tensions in the areas concerned.

3. Greece attributes special importance to the role that OSCE is called to play into the international security environment, and participates in all initiatives aimed at enhancing OSCE strength and employing its capabilities for crisis prevention and management.

4. In view of promoting confidence and security and, as regards the overall activation of conventional forces of the member States of OSCE and in order to avoid the occurrence of threat or violence not only among them, but also within the international environment, our country steadily supports the initiatives of the said organization and participates actively in their materialization by implementing the confidence- and security-building measures in the field of conventional arms mentioned below.

(a) Vienna Document 99

According to the provisions of the above document, our country applies, on an annual basis, the following measures:

(1) Exchange of military information and changes to the structure and organization of the armed forces units;

(2) Exchange of the defence planning text regarding the defence policy, the military strategy and the military doctrine, along with the armed forces procurement and armaments expenditure;

(3) Military contacts with other OSCE member States through visits to airbases and military facilities. Greece organized in 2004 a visit to an airbase and military facility;

(4) The former eastern countries military unit evaluations, based on North Atlantic Treaty Organization coordination and bilateral military cooperation, mainly with the Balkan countries. Greece also receives passive evaluations and inspections. For the year 2008, an evaluation visit to Armenia and two inspections, one to Croatia and one to Montenegro, were conducted;

(5) Prior notification of certain military activities (>9,000 troops, or >250 BT etc.) and constraining provisions regarding military activities;

(b) Global exchange of military information — GEMI

Our country annually exchanges with the other member States of OSCE general military information concerning the conventional forces in formation level (personnel and seven types of weapons systems of the Army, the Navy and the Air Force, such as battle tanks, armoured combat vehicles, artillery, combat aircrafts, attack helicopters, warships and submarines);

(c) Dayton Agreement (annex 1-B, article IV)

Even though our country is not a co-signatory member of the above Agreement, it participates annually, under OSCE auspices, with military inspectors and escorts in the multinational teams composed to this end in order to assist with the implementation of annex 1-B, article IV, of the Dayton Agreement;

(d) Conventional arms transfers

(1) Based on United Nations resolution 46/36 L (1991) and FSC.DEC 13/97 of OSCE, Greece has been making data available annually on the import/export movements of seven types of main weapon systems (tanks, armoured vehicles, artillery, combat aircrafts, attack helicopters, warships and submarines), which took place during the previous year, along with a board of the existing weapon systems and holdings. Man Portable Air Defense Systems (MANPADS) are also included;

(2) Additionally, as a result of FSC.DEC 20/95, there is an annual exchange of data on the conventional arms transfers policy;

(e) Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security

(1) The Code of Conduct covers the politico-military aspects of Armed Forces personnel of OSCE member States, based on international and humanitarian law;

(2) According to FSC.DEC 1/09, information concerning the implementation of the provisions of Code of Conduct is exchanged among the participating States annually, as provided for by the adopted questionnaire;

(f) Small arms and light weapons

Based on the United Nations Programme of Action to eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and on relevant OSCE document, Greece exchanges information with the member States of OSCE concerning small arms and light weapons on the following issues: the national marking system, national procedures for control over manufacture, national legislation and current practice on export policy, procedures and control over international brokering, the exports to and exports from other participating States during the previous year, the category and the quantity of the surplus weapon systems, stockpile management and security procedures and procedures for the destruction of small arms;

(g) Ottawa Convention on the prohibition of anti-personnel mines

(1) Greece signed the Ottawa Convention on 3/12/1997. The said Convention was approved by the Hellenic Parliament on 8/4/2002 (2999/02 Act) and ratified on 25/9/2003;

(2) Greece submits on an annual basis the proper reports concerning minefields and the questionnaire information on anti-personnel landmines and explosive remnants of war;

(3) Greece implements the Ottawa Convention and will fulfil its commitments arising from that Convention (destruction of mine stockpiles and cleaning of all minefields). Greece has already cleaned all minefields on the Greek-Bulgarian border.

Lebanon

[Original: Arabic]
[21 April 2009]

The Ministry of National Defence states that Lebanon supports all international initiatives and conventions designed to promote confidence, maintain the military balance and combat the unchecked proliferation of all types of weapons in the region and the world, which pose a serious threat at the global, regional and subregional levels. It also declares its adherence to international law and the principles of the Charter, and especially the principle of equality in respect of sovereignty of States and regional security. The main obstacle facing Lebanon in promoting confidence-building measures at the regional and subregional levels is Israel, which continues to violate international laws and practices and possesses weapons of mass destruction, which pose a constant threat at the local and regional levels.

Mexico

[Original: Spanish]
[21 May 2009]

1. In reply to the note verbale of 23 February 2009 from the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat, we submit herewith the report of the Government of Mexico on "Confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context" pursuant to General Assembly resolution 63/45.

2. At the multilateral level, Mexico has supported and will continue to promote confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context through the United Nations Disarmament Commission, the Conference on Disarmament, the First Committee of the General Assembly and other major disarmament forums. It also supports the development of a regional approach through voluntary financial contributions to the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

3. In that regard and in compliance with General Assembly resolutions, Mexico has submitted reports on measures adopted at the national level on various items, including: (a) objective information on military questions, including transparency in military expenditure; (b) confidence-building measures in the context of conventional weapons; (c) control of conventional weapons at the regional and subregional levels; (d) implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction; (e) the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms.

4. Mexico wishes, however, to appeal to Member States to strengthen their diplomatic channels and increase information exchange, confidence, transparency, stability and understanding in respect of conventional weapons.

5. At the regional level, with a view to dealing with matters of security and mutual interest so as to promote unity, enhance hemispheric security and strengthen international peace and security, as well as achieve a close understanding among Member States for the joint study of problems of common interest in the American continent, the Ministry of National Defence participates in various military forums, such as the Conference of Ministers of Defense of the Americas and the Inter-American Defense Board, in addition to participating in various conferences and seminars through military attachés assigned to the embassies of Mexico.

6. Mexico also participated, with the approval of the national Congress, in the exercise UNITAS 50-09 conducted from 19 April to 7 May 2009 in May Port, Florida, United States, thereby promoting inter-operability and cooperation in the security of the hemisphere and boosting needed confidence in the regional and subregional context pursuant to the present resolution.

7. Furthermore, our country participates regularly in hemispheric forums on the analysis of the various confidence- and security-building measures carried out by the States members of the Organization of American States.

8. In the bilateral context, Mexico participates in joint commissions with Belize, Guatemala and the United States, through which specific actions have been devised for coordination and cooperation designed to strengthen security in the common border areas.

9. In that regard, Mexico has taken urgent actions aimed at averting the illegal introduction of firearms and ammunition into the border area between Mexico and the United States, through the Tax Administration Service of the General Customs Administration, in coordination with the Ministries of National Defence, the Navy and Public Security. To that end, customs procedures have been reorganized and equipped with the following technological services: technological barriers, a system for monitoring and control of vehicles, manned video surveillance, and inspections using non-intrusive equipment such as X-rays and gamma-rays, all of which facilitate the work of these agencies, thereby contributing to disarmament and better control by those entrusted with keeping the peace in society.

10. Furthermore, our country has established agreements, standards of action and procedures with the United States Coastguard and United States Navy in the context of inter-institutional agreements for maritime cooperation, and also with Honduras in order to enhance coordination in preventing such crimes as trafficking in arms, psychotropic substances and illegal immigrants in the maritime context.

11. Lastly, in the national context, Mexico has developed its national strategy for crime prevention and combating organized crime, adopted in 2007, with emphasis on investigation, information analysis, objective operations and the active participation of society.

12. To that end, the Ministry of Public Security, through the Federal Police, is engaged in actions to avert and combat trafficking in arms, explosives and hazardous materials; collaborate in the implementation of effective controls at airports, seaports and frontiers; and establish mechanisms for the exchange of

operational information with countries in Central America and the Caribbean, as well as with the United States through the information-technology system *Plataforma México*.

13. The Ministry of Public Security has based its role in fighting crime on arrangements for coordination with the Ministries of National Defence, the Navy, the Interior (through the Centre for Investigation and National Security and the National Institute of Migration), Finance and Public Credit (through the General Customs Administration), and the Office of the Attorney-General of the Republic.

14. The Directorate for Coordination of Expert Services of the Attorney-General's Office assists in these measures by issuing forensic-ballistics reports containing detailed descriptions of the references and characteristics of the weapons identified or involved in a crime, reviewing all the information needed to track the weapons, and promoting a speedy and efficient exchange of information through officials of the Attorney-General's Office and other authorities in order to resolve matters involving firearms.

15. In addition, it is promoting the implementation of a national database using the integrated ballistic-identification system (IBIS), which makes it possible to draw up a national register of ballistic fingerprints based on the marks left on the surface of the bullet and on the base of the cartridge case when the weapon is fired. The purpose is to identify the weapons involved in criminal acts by digitally comparing the ballistic fingerprints in the database with that of the material gathered at the crime scene or recovered from cadavers.

Panama

[Original: Spanish]
[15 May 2009]

1. The Republic of Panama actively participates in efforts to establish confidence-building measures with a view to consolidating peace and international security. To that end, Panama belongs to the Rio Group, which holds annual ministerial meetings with the European Union, one of the principal issues being confidence-building measures to promote a climate of growing solidarity at the regional and subregional levels.

2. It also participates in the annual conferences of defence ministers of the Americas, which focus bilateral and subregional efforts on promoting a hemispheric concept of security and on improving and broadening efforts to build mutual confidence.

3. Panama signed the Code of Conduct of Central American States on the Transfer of Arms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Matériel, which, inter alia, establishes confidence-building measures among the States of the region, and the Framework Treaty on Democratic Security in Central America.

4. In addition, we participate in bilateral initiatives. In the case of the Republic of Colombia, we have the machinery of the Bi-National Frontier and Goodwill Commission (COMBIFRON); and, together with Costa Rica, we are members of the Good-Neighbour Commission.

5. These initiatives in which Panama participates are designed to help reduce, and in certain cases, eliminate the fear, hostility and mistrust that might exist between some States, strengthen existing confidence, and bolster security in the continent, on the basis of the sovereign equality of States and the juridical security in their relations, with a view to the peaceful settlement of disputes and the renunciation of threats.

Poland

[Original: English]
[16 May 2009]

1. Poland is deeply committed to the United Nations idea of promoting agreements to strengthen regional peace and security. We welcome resolution 63/45, adopted by the General Assembly on 2 December 2008, as an important contribution to international peace and security.

2. Poland's policy on conventional arms control, disarmament and confidence- and security-building measures plays an important role in the overall security policy of the country.

3. Poland is a party to several multilateral agreements related to conventional arms control and confidence- and security-building measures that have been negotiated and implemented under the auspices of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) (in a broad sense), including: the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, the Treaty on Open Skies, the Vienna Document 1999 on confidence- and security-building measures and the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security.

4. Being a member of the European Union (EU), the Republic of Poland meets its obligations in the area of common foreign and security policy, such as the EU programme for preventing and combating illicit trafficking in conventional arms and the EU Code of Conduct on Arms Exports. All above-mentioned agreements and initiatives constitute an essential element of cooperative European security and will continue to remain an important tool for strengthening security as long as military and security risks exist, although they may be different in nature and scope from those of the past.

5. Furthermore, we believe that EU member States are ready to undertake all necessary measures to increase transparency and confidence and to ensure that the overall objectives of arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation remain in harmony. The efforts we have been undertaking so far must be intensified. We consider confidence-building, arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation as important components of conflict prevention and recognize that the United Nations is designed to play a crucial role in this field by promoting broader, more comprehensive cooperation and dialogue programmes on both the regional and subregional levels.

6. Having had positive results in the implementation of the European conventional arms control regime, Poland is strongly committed to maintaining this regime and our level of engagement therein. Poland is also convinced that strengthening and increasing regional and subregional cooperation and the implementation of the existing bilateral and multilateral agreements, to which States

are parties, shall contribute to further strengthening confidence between them, as well as to increased security on the region, subregional and global levels. As for Poland, we are ready to share with interested States our experiences gained during the negotiations and implementation of the above-mentioned conventional arms control agreements.

Additional bilateral agreements on confidence- and security-building measures concluded by Poland with Ukraine and Belarus

7. The main philosophy behind the additional bilateral agreements on confidence- and security-building measures is contained in chapter X of the Vienna Document on confidence- and security-building measures: to expand already existing confidence- and security-building measures on the pan-European scale.

8. The main body of both agreements is the following: additional exchange of military information, implementation of additional systems of verification (inspections and evaluation visits), additional observation of certain military activities, introduction of new ways to obtain clarifications on military activities and establishment of regular meetings on the level of the verification units of the States involved.

9. The agreement on additional confidence- and security-building measures with Ukraine was signed by the Ministers of National Defence of both States in November 2004. It entered into force on 30 November 2004; however, the practical implementation started in 2005.

10. The Belarusian authorities issued an invitation to enter the bilateral talks on additional confidence- and security-building measures in July 2001. Following several rounds of consultations, the text was adopted. Missions to OSCE of the two States exchanged notes and informed other OSCE participating States. The bilateral agreement entered into force on 20 July 2004. However, the heads of the verification units decided to start practical cooperation in 2005.

Implementation to date

11. There have been no problems with the overall implementation of both agreements. Some trends should be noticed: (a) the decreasing role of provisions on the notification and observation of military activities in the zone of application — it seems unlikely that in the future any notifiable activity will be conducted in the border zone, as specified in both agreements. It confirms that there is already a high degree of confidence and stability in the region of Central and Eastern Europe; (b) due to the fact that the subjects of verification are only the military units in the zone of application (about 80 km. of the border regions), in practice, the same units are visited every year. There are plans to include in the inspection teams and escort teams representatives of the units from the border regions of Poland so to enable them to expand the so-called transborder cooperation, in the spirit of the Vienna Document (para. 30.1.2).

12. Both agreements have been important to confirm the will of the neighbouring States to expand cooperation in the military sphere. The Polish membership in the North Atlantic Alliance and EU created another impulse to conclude such agreements just to show the neighbours that stay outside the two organizations that Poland intends to continue and even to intensify its partner ties with them.

Spain

[Original: Spanish]
[20 May 2009]

1. The ultimate objective of an arms-control regime and of confidence- and security-building measures should be to prevent conflicts by reducing the danger of erroneous perceptions or calculations vis-à-vis the military activities of others, establishing measures that inhibit the possibility of covert military preparations, and reducing the risk of surprise attacks and of inadvertently unleashing hostilities.

2. On the basis of that criterion, confidence- and security-building measures in the regional and subregional context are of great value as preventive measures adapted to regional and subregional requirements, being limited to a smaller number of participants and being much more demanding and consequently more effective. All the foregoing increases the likelihood that the measures will be adopted and have force.

3. Among the body of principles which, in our view, should govern confidence- and security-building measures, as set forth in Spain's reply to the request for information pursuant to General Assembly resolution 63/44, the following are particularly notable in the regional and subregional context:

- Complementarity: There should be ongoing complementarity among measures at the global (United Nations), regional, subregional and bilateral levels, thereby avoiding duplication
- Specificity: Measures should be negotiated for each case and each particular geographical area

Furthermore, the effective implementation of confidence- and security-building measures calls for:

- A mechanism for consultations and for follow-up to the implementation of measures. It should facilitate complaints and the solution of problems that might arise in the practical implementation of measures, as well as negotiation of new measures or the modification of existing ones.
- An appropriate communications system or, failing that, a network of contact points among the participants. At the executive level, there is a need to ensure compliance with the time limits for responses inherent in the various measures, and at the directive level, to remain sufficiently flexible to channel the information flow and to take decisions enabling confidence to be restored in the face of possible alarms.

Ukraine

[Original: Russian]
[29 April 2009]

1. In compliance with chapter X of the Vienna Document of 1999 concerning negotiations on confidence- and security-building measures, Ukraine steadfastly complies with the bilateral agreements it has concluded with a number of neighbouring States on additional confidence- and security-building measures, namely:

- The Agreement between the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and the Government of the Republic of Hungary of 27 October 1998 on confidence- and security-building measures and the development of bilateral military contacts
- The Agreement between the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and the Government of the Slovak Republic of 30 August 2000 on additional confidence- and security-building measures
- The Agreement between the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and the Republic of Belarus of 16 October 2001 on additional confidence- and security-building measures
- The Agreement between the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and the Government of the Republic of Poland of 16 April 2004 on additional confidence- and security-building measures.